



# St Mark's School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2  
5 February 2020

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,  
It has been wonderful catching up with many of you this week and watching your children settle back into school.

There are a number of important messages this week. I thought I would start with a list of staff members in each area of the school and encourage you to put faces to names.

## Mokihi

**Mrs Delwyn Wright** - New Entrants  
**Mrs Emily Wells** - Year 1 and 2  
**Mrs Lorraine Brereton** - Year 1 and 2 and Team Leader  
**Mrs Philippa Tyrrell** - Teacher, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.  
**Miss Sinead Bigelow** - Teacher Aide

## Waka Puhara

**Mr Dan Clarkson** - Year 3  
**Miss May Bryant** - Year 4  
**Mr Ben Davis** - Year 5  
**Mrs Liz Coster** - Year 5 and Team Leader  
**Mrs Sarah Learman** - Wednesdays and Thursdays.  
**Mrs Sue Shea** - Teacher Aide, Monday - Thursday mornings.

## Waka Hourua

**Mr Tom Gordon** - Year 6 and 7  
**Mrs Marēe Bigelow** - Year 6 and 7  
**Miss Cristy Yonetani** - Year 8  
**Mrs Megan Campbell** - Year 6, 7 and 8  
**Mr Adrian Rennie** - Team Leader and Year 6,7 and 8  
**Ms Sandy van den Berg** - Teacher Aide

**Mrs Teena Wellbourn** - Full-time Learning Support Facilitator - Year 1 - 8.

**Mrs Louise Elliott** - Office Manager  
**Mrs Christine Fairchild** - Office Assistant  
**Mr Kevin McKinnel** - Caretaker

We have a larger team this year and feel privileged to be partnering with your extended whānau in the learning journey of your tamariki.

## 2020 Focus on Local Curriculum

As indicated last year, in 2020 we will begin a focus on the development of our local curriculum schoolwide. We have begun korero with local Ngāi Tahu educators and will look to consult with many groups in our school.

This is not only a natural step in our school's development, but part of a national directive. Our point of difference will be the centrality of the gospel to all we do.

**Mrs Emily Wells** is leading this work in our school and will be given time and professional learning opportunities to grow her leadership in this area.

## Formative Assessment

In addition staff began discussion in earnest on our staff retreat, to document our assessment for learning strategies including **formative assessment** - those crucial moment by moment decisions teachers make during learning to enable academic growth. Increasingly, research is showing these strategies are vital for raising achievement.

Please look out for opportunities to join in and influence the discussions.

## ST MARK'S SCHOOL APP

Please find details of how to download this app in this newsletter. From **Term 2** we will be using this app for **ALL** formal communications to the school community including **EMERGENCY** notifications such as lockdown. Seesaw will remain a communication from children to whānau about their learning **ONLY**. Please download the app as soon as you are able - it is operational.

## Conversations in the playground

**AW** - "It is time for us to go to Kapa haka now".

**5 year old** - "Do we take the bus?"

**AW** - "Good morning everyone"

**5 year old** - "What are you doing here? You're the principal"

**AW** - "Principals are teachers"

**5 year old** - (Laughing) "I don't think so"

A long time parent shared with me the success of her year 9 daughter at the end of the year. Her comments, so encouraging, reflected the fact that a small school such as ours can be transformative. Wonderful academic progress and a significant Year 9 award for respect and care for others was testament she said to our school - and I added parenting.

An article questioning John Hattie's view that class size doesn't matter crossed my emails this week. Whatever we think about his methodology, I certainly hold the view that high quality teachers are vital, but small class sizes allow these teachers increased time and attention for every learner. Blessings everyone - Averil



Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

## Upcoming Events

10-13 Feb	Year 6 & 7 Waipara Camp
10-21 Feb	Y0-3 Swimming Pioneer Pool
11-14 Feb	Year 8 Hanmer Leadership Camp
14 Feb	Parents' Association Community BBQ - 5pm
18 Feb	Parents' Association AGM - 7pm
24 Feb - 6 Mar	Year 4-8 Swimming - Waltham
5 Mar	Swimming Sports - Christ's College - 9.30am - 2.30pm

## 2020 Term Dates

Term 1 - Monday 27 January - Thursday 9 April
Term 2 - Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3rd July.
Teacher only day - Tuesday 2 June
Term 3 - Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4 - Monday 12 October - Friday 11 December
Teacher only day - Tuesday 27 October

## Church Certificates

Tuaki	Lillybelle T/Tyronne N
Karoro	Benjamin A
Pīngao	Finn McW
Kāmana	Zachary O
Kahawai	Dustin S
Karengo	Joseph R
Toroa	London V



Subway can be ordered for lunch every **Tuesday**. To place an online order, visit [www.subway.co.nz/schools](http://www.subway.co.nz/schools) and follow the instructions to place your order by 9am each Subway day. Alternatively, envelopes are in the office and you can either pay with the correct cash or credit card.

## New Families

We welcome the following new families to our school and pray they find a turangawaewae in this place with us:

Madison A and parents Kalon and Katie  
Lucy O'D and parents Simon and Nicky  
Shadeh H and parents Vaughn and Roxanne  
Maddison Z and parents Shane and Jessica  
Eleanor P and parents Chris and Hannah  
Sofia I and parents Michael and Inna  
Toby H and parents Matt and Aynsley  
Madeleine J and parents Tim and Kelly  
Lachlan S and parents Matthew and Kerry  
Ariki E and grandparent Winifred  
Ella B and parents Lindsey and Allanah  
Sienna G and parents Dan and Kath  
Foster H and parents David and Hayley

## Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop hours are:

Tuesday - 8.30-9.30am  
Thursday - 2.30-3.30pm

If you have any questions, please email:  
[uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz](mailto:uniformshop@saintmarks.school.nz)



## Coffee Cart

"School Grounds" is a volunteer run coffee cart, operating out of the school foyer.

### Open Mon/Wed/Fri mornings 8:30 – 9:10am

Our coffees are great value, our fluffies are a hit and all profits feed back into the school under the PA umbrella.

We offer cash and eftpos facilities

# St Mark's School Parents' Association Newsletter

Welcome Back to one and all, to our returning families and to our new families and tamariki. I trust you have had a fun summer break and time to re-charge ahead of the 2020 school year.

The school year has started in earnest, and already we have students learning about bicycle safety and road awareness and some have been learning about water safety and swimming and our year 6,7 and 8 students are looking forward to their class camp coming up next week and then on top of all this is the day to day learning and development of our children.

The P.A. (Parents' Association) just like our Boards of Trustees' and Proprietors', have also been busy beavering away in the background during the break to make sure we each have our areas of responsibility all ship shape and ready to help ensure our St Mark's family have the 'BEST' possible year ahead of them.

I'd like to thank Serena and her team for making sure everyone had their uniform requirements all sorted out, and ready for the start of the school year. Interesting that just before school started back the media decided to highlight back to school costs, especially uniforms.

As chair of the P.A. I believe that we are open and honest about our activities and what we do to help raise funds for our children's school. The uniform shop is an area where yes; your purchases do contribute to our overall efforts, but not as some would believe at the expense of your pocket. Serena has put in a lot of work ensuring that we have the best possible uniform products at the best possible price. She has even managed to negotiate prices with suppliers that has actually brought the costs of items down and we, the P.A. have passed those savings on to you, the parent. Our Summer Dresses for example are now only \$59 - \$67 (depending on size) compared with \$110 previously.

Last year the Proprietors', who set the uniform standards of what is a formal uniform, agreed with our request to allow white shirts/blouses and socks to be purchased by parents from elsewhere. We could not get them at a price from suppliers that could match those places that have just as good quality but better prices. Last year the uniform shop returned a modest profit of approximately \$48 per student and this has been appropriated to the overall 2019 fundraising totals, and is being put toward the playground revamp that will take place throughout this year. The only reason why the shop can make this modest return is because we do not have to pay rent, power or wages. If we did then our prices would be somewhat different to what they are.

Not only does the uniform shop offer value for money with its brand new range of school uniform items, but there are also plenty of good quality second hand items available as well which are priced realistically, so further helping with costs. From time to time our lives can change and uniform costs could become very prohibitive. If any family should find themselves in a position like this, please approach Mrs Worner, in confidence, as there is a supply of donated uniform items that can be used to help out should this be required.

**BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ** - A long time tradition at St Mark's, the PA warmly invite ALL families to join us for a bit of community socializing on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm-7pm on the school field. We'll provide the sausages and you bring a Salad for the communal Salad Bar. We look forward to catching up with many of you at that time....

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM** – On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm in the School Library.

A GREAT way to get involved in the social aspects of school life and to assist with our FUNdraising efforts that help to provide the nice to have extras for our children at St Mark's

I look forward to catching up with and meeting with many of you throughout the year.

Ngā mihi nui

Gary Miller

Chairperson

St Mark's Parents Association

# What's new?

We are truly blessed to have such an engaged and supportive community. Thank you for your feedback in 2019. We hear you loud and clear! While we love Seesaw as a tool for sharing learning, it didn't turn out to be the best fit as a communication platform for our St Mark's School Family. There is *so much going on* in our St Mark's School Family, the information overload was simply impractical (especially for families with siblings at school). Subsequently, we are keeping Seesaw as a learning journal and launching our own School App for communication.



If you are already on Seesaw, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive updates from your child and their teacher, celebrating learning. Please remember that Seesaw is a learning journal and not a publishing portfolio. Mistakes are a part of learning. You will gain insight into your child's learning journey and have the opportunity to encourage them, every step of the way.

Each child's learning journey is unique. **Seesaw comments will be private within families.** Every day, we are showcasing learning, sharing in class, and utilising peer feedback to deepen learning. We know that home-school partnerships are key to quality learning, so Seesaw will be a special link between you and your child.



With our St Mark's School App, communication is simple and clear. Please feel free to download SchoolAppsNZ from the App Store or Google Play. For term one, communication will be via email, in addition to our St Mark's School App. This will ensure that key information is available for everyone. From term two onwards, our St Mark's School App will be the primary communication platform for our school.

Once again, thank you for your support and engagement. Please feel free to share your questions or feedback:

Cristy Yonetani

E-Learning Lead Teacher

c.yonetani@saintmarks.school.nz